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Commission on Sustainable Development
Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
Fourth session
New York, 31 January-11 February 2000
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session

Draft report

Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development held its fourth session from 31 January to 11 February 2000, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1999/280 of 29 July 1999. The Forum held ... meetings (1st to ... meetings).

2. The session was opened by one of the Co-Chairmen, Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran).

3. At the same meeting, the Forum heard statements by the following keynote speakers: Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, David Harcharik, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and Chairman, Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests, Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and Eimi Watanabe, Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

4. The Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Juan Mayr Maldonado (Colombia), also addressed the Forum.

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 February, the Coordinator and Head of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests secretariat made a presentation to the Forum.

B. Election of officers

6. At its 1st meeting, on 31 January, the Forum elected Andrea Alban (Colombia) as Vice-Chairperson by acclamation. It was also agreed that she would also serve as Rapporteur.

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7. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 February, the Forum elected Claude Bouah-Kamon (Côte d'Ivoire) as Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

8. The Bureau of the Forum comprised the following officers:

Co-Chairmen:

Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Ilkka Ristimaki (Finland)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Andrea Alban (Colombia)

Claude Bouah-Kamon (Côte d'Ivoire)

Yevgeny Kuzmichev (Russian Federation)

Rapporteur:

Andrea Alban (Colombia)

C. Agenda and organization of work

9. At its 1st meeting, on 31 January, the Forum adopted its provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.17/IFF/2000/1, and approved its organization of work. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests:
   (a) Promoting and facilitating implementation (programme element I.a);
   (b) Monitoring progress in implementation (programme element I.b).
4. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process:
   (a) Need for financial resources (programme element II.a);
   (b) Trade and environment (programme element II.b);
   (c) Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management (programme element II.c);
   (d) Issues that need further clarification:
      (i) Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation (programme element II.d (i));
      (ii) Traditional forest-related knowledge (programme element II.d (ii));

(iii) Forest conservation and protected areas (programme element II.d (iii));

(iv) Forest research (programme element II.d (iv));

(v) Valuation of forest goods and services (programme element II.d (v));

(vi) Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure (programme element II.d (vi));

(vii) Future supply of and demand for wood and non-wood forest products (programme element II.d (vii));

(viii) Assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas (programme element II.d (viii));

(e) Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments (programme element II.e).

5. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (programme element III).

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session.

10. Also at its 1st meeting, the Forum agreed to establish two in-session working groups, each to be chaired by one of the Co-Chairmen.

D. Attendance

11. The session was attended by representatives of ... States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and secretariats of treaty bodies, as well as observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex ...

E. Documentation

12. The Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process: forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/15);

(b) Report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests on its third session (Geneva, 3-14 May 1999) (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/25);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on priority forest policy issues (E/CN.17/IFF/2000/2);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on elements and functions for a future international arrangement and mechanism (E/CN.17/IFF/2000/3);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on international arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (E/CN.17/IFF/2000/4);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on promoting and facilitating implementation (E/CN.17/IFF/2000/5);

(g) Note by the Secretariat on forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments (E/CN.17/IFF/2000/6);

(h) Letter dated 23 December 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Tehran Declaration and report of the Open-ended International Meeting of Experts on the Special Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover and Unique Types of Forests, held at Tehran from 4 to 8 October 1999 (E/CN.17/IFF/2000/7);

(i) Letter dated 19 January 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the summary report of the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development entitled "Our Forests ... Our Future" (E/CN.17/IFF/2000/8);

(j) Letter dated 21 January 2000 from the Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires of Costa Rica to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the consolidated Report of the Costa Rica-Canada Initiative (E/CN.17/IFF/2000/9);

(k) Letter dated 6 January 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the South Pacific Subregional Workshop on Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Issues, held in Fiji from 22 to 24 September 1999 (E/CN.17/IFF/2000/10).